

Approved For Release 2001/11/28 : CIA-RDP82-00463R000500020012-9

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 9 June 1948

SUBJECT Evacuation of Potsdam Dependents
Preparation for Spring Maneuvers

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1C
PLACE
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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Evacuation of Soviet dependents from Potsdam is alleged to be proceeding quietly. The last reported transport left from the Wildpark station (Z53) on 19 April 1948. The entire evacuation program is to be concluded by 15 June. In addition to being sent to camps for a re-orientation period, the dependents are aware that all their valuables, clothing, and furniture will be taken from them at the Russian border. At a 15 April meeting of the Potsdam Kreis Komendatura, Stakhinsky, a political officer, explained to assembled officers scheduled for return to the USSR that it was necessary for them to abandon the living standard to which they had become accustomed in Germany, but that they, as well as the entire Soviet nation, would enjoy this standard again as soon as a successful war had been waged against the capitalistic west.
2. Between 10 and 16 March, all Potsdam troops were shipped out and replaced by new units in similar strength. The new troops make an excellent impression, being 20 to 24 years old, well-dressed, and led by NCO's and officers who wear decorations. Strength is believed to be two rifle regiments plus an artillery unit variously described as a battalion and as a regiment. It is presumed the latter troops will use guns left behind by the former occupants of the Wildpark area. The only new armament consists of twelve (undescribed) guns which had been repaired or assembled by the Fimag shop in Finsterwalde (A15).
3. Liquidation of all SMA food depots and cooperatives in Potsdam selling unrationed goods has been ordered for 15 May; only one, operating on a ration basis, will remain open. All food supplies which arrived in Potsdam between 16 and 21 April were requisitioned by the SMA and shipped off to Karlshorst. Similar requisitioning occurred in Nauen (Z45), and it is rumored that the same measures were applied to food stocks held by food offices in Lehnin (Z42) and Belzig (Z30).
4. The Mahlow (Z83) County Commissioner has prohibited all meetings, dances, and other public gatherings throughout Kreis Teltow, which will play host to troops scheduled to engage in maneuvers in the area Baruth (E99), Wunsdorf, Zehrendorf, Töpchin (all Z91), and Neuhof

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Approved For Release 2001/11/23 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001500520012-9

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(290). The County Cooperatives have been asked to provide food for 12,000 men.

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5. Armored units and munitions trains are being moved west via Frankfurt/Oder. These movements are officially explained as being connected with spring maneuvers in Thuringia. [REDACTED] also states that 6,000 PW's recently were returned to Germany via Frankfurt/Oder and that, during the same period of time (not given), approximately the same number of civil prisoners from Russian Zone prisons and concentration camps were sent to Russia.
6. During February 1948, the Soviet Army celebrated its Ground Forces Day by issuing a packet of cakes and candies to each EM and officer. All Ground Forces packets were made up by the Krietsch Werke in Wurzen (E42). The total number of packets ordered and delivered was 220,000.

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